

### [OCP Provides Snow Emergency Roofing Tips](#)

Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) warns local residents to be cautious about contracting with roof repair companies following the recent snow storms. The storms left many homeowners concerned about the conditions of their roofs.

Many area roofs have formed ice dams and ice build-up from the recent storms. That's when ice blocks melting snow and water from running off a roof possibly leading to a leaky roof. Investigator John Lewis warns that, "legitimate roofing companies don't usually replace roofs in the middle of a big storm, but ice dam removal scams increase."

Most leaks occurring now are from ice dams and not from worn out roofs in need of replacement. Even brand new roofs can experience ice dams. Inv. Lewis states that ice dams can be prevented by adding either insulation or a gable vent fan; both of which can be done from inside the attic.

If roof work is required, it is generally better to wait until snow melts to avoid unnecessary charges unless an emergency repair is needed. To minimize damage caused by a leaking roof, make a hole in a low spot in the drywall ceiling to drain water into a bucket.

In addition, OCP recommends that homeowners:

- only hire licensed contractors [Check licenses here](#)
- get more than one estimate
- get a written contract specifying materials
- not pay more than 1/3 up front
- review CHECKBOOK Magazine for ratings on roofers [www.checkbook.org](http://www.checkbook.org)

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